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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,429	12/14/2001	Robert P. Carlstedt	60130-1066/01MRA0154	9536
26096	7590	11/04/2003	EXAMINER	
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C. 400 WEST MAPLE ROAD SUITE 350 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009			DUNN, DAVID R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3616	10

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/020,429

Applicant(s)

CARLSTEDT ET AL.

Examiner

David Dunn

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9-15 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-7,9,14,15 and 17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 10-13 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed 9/4/03 in which claims 8 and 16 were canceled and new claims 19 and 20 were added.

1. Claims 2-7, 9, 14, 15, and 17 remain withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 5.

It is noted that the withdrawn claims depend from claims 1 and 13 which now include limitations drawn to a different species.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Castrilli (4,884,790) in view of Holzheimer (5,303,907).

Castrilli discloses a suspension system comprising a stabilizer bar (20) at least one member (42) positioned about the stabilizer bar including at least one passive structure (68; see Figure 3), said passive structure for interacting with the stabilizer bar to vary a level of stiffness

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of the stabilizer bar by axially twisting of the passive structure relative to the stabilizer bar (see column 5, line 62- column 6, line 7).

Castrilli fails to show the passive structure being a bushing.

Holzheimer teaches a variable rate elastomeric torsion spring (see Figures 4, 5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Castrilli with the teachings of Holzheimer in order to provide a cheaper and easier to produce nonlinear torsion spring.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1 and 10-13 are allowed.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 1 and 13 are allowable for the inclusion of "said stabilizer bar pressing into said outer layer as said stabilizer bar twists to increase said level of stiffness of said stabilizer bar." It is noted that Holzheimer shows the bushing including two layers, however Holzheimer does not show the bar pressing into the outer layer to increase the level of stiffness.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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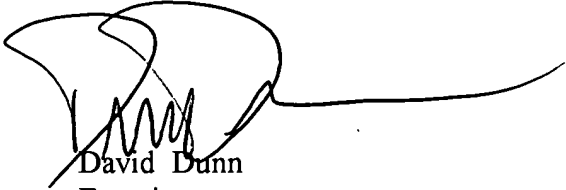
Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Foulquier shows a torsional suspension element of interest

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Dunn whose telephone number is 703-305-0049. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur, alt. Fridays, 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 703-308-2089. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-1113.



David Dunn
Examiner
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